GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4471
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of parameters alongwith their weightage used in formulating composite Human Development Index (HDI) by UNDP-2001;

(b) the details of the parameters in which performance of India is better/less.

(c) the measures being taken to do better in functional areas where India has lagged behind; and

(d) India`s placement vis-Ã -vis other countries both in Human Development Index, Poverty and Health?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): The Human Development Index (HDI) formulated by the UNDP in the Human Development Report 2001 is a summary measure of human development. It measures the average achievement in a country in three basic dimensions of human development. The dimensions are: a long and healthy life as measured by life expectancy at birth, knowledge as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-third weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight) and a decent standard of living as measured by Gross Domestic Product Per Capita (purchasing power parity US $) All the three dimensions of human development are given equal weights. It is a simple average of these three dimension indices.

(b): India`s HDI value has improved from 0.406 in 1975 to 0.510 in 1990 and 0.571 in 1999. The bulk of the improvement in the HDI in the 1990s has been due to the improvements in the income component of the index. Social development indicators did also improve during the last few years but their rate of improvement has not kept pace with that of the GDP per capita expressed in terms of Purchasing Power Parity. This is especially true of life expectancy, infant mortality rate, adult literacy and the combined enrolment ratio.

(c): Social sector will receive adequate priority during the Tenth Five Year Plan commencing from next year, namely, 2002-2003.

(d): India`s rank in the HDI is 115 among 162 countries and territories ranked by the UNDP`s HDR for 2001. The ranks of our South Asian neighbours on the HDI are: Bangladesh−132, Bhutan−130, Maldives −77, Nepal −129, Pakistan −127 and Sri Lanka − 81.

India has also improved its Human Poverty Index (HPI) rank from 58 out of 85 in HDR 2000 to 55 out of 90 in HDR 2001. The ranks of our South Asian neighbours in HP Iare Bangladesh − 73, Maldives − 25, Nepal − 77, Pakistan − 65 and Sri Lanka − 31. HPI rank for Bhutan has not been calculated by the Report. No ranking of countries has been done for health indicators in the Report.